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'Old boy' network tied to the swap

WASHINGTON — The "old boy" network of retired Army generals and CIA veterans used by the White House to help the contras in Nicaragua also played a key role in secret U.S. arms shipments to Iran. The Post has learned.

U.S. intelligence sources said both operations involved the network linked to Eugene Hausenfus, the cargo pilot now on trial in Nicaragua.

Both were orchestrated by Lt. Col. Oliver North of the National Security Council staff, who advises a group headed by former Gen. John Singlaub and ex-CIA agent-arms dealer Felix Rodriguez, sources said.

Meanwhile, President Reagan yesterday appealed to the press to stop unfounded speculation about U.S. arms deals, saying: "All of this is making it more difficult for us . . . to get the other hostages out."

— NILES LATHEM

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